

**Administrator's Briefing Book
Beijing, China
9 December 2013**

Meeting of the EPA-MEP Joint Committee on Environmental Cooperation

Purpose:

- Co-chair meeting of the Joint Committee on Environmental Cooperation
- Be briefed on accomplishments and approve/comment on proposed work plans
- Raise EPA proposed or emerging issues for dialogue and future consideration
- Discuss issues proposed for addition to the portfolio now (2014-15 period)

Key Message: The current focus on the environment in China gives us an opportunity to make the most of our close collaboration. We share common challenges and can be most effective when we work together and engage an informed public and industry.

Key Ask: Secure MEP commitment to collaborate on implementation of Minamata in the interim period and open a dialogue on emissions from marine vessels.

Overview:

Minister Zhou is hosting and chairing the Joint Committee for Environmental Cooperation (JCEC) meeting and you are co-chairing. Each of you has several distinct alternating interventions during the meeting. Minister Zhou and you will sit at the head of the table and each will make opening remarks and short speeches from your chairs. The opening remarks will include new topics that each agency wants to propose to the other for further discussion but which are not considered for immediate collaboration.

Acting OITA AA Jane Nishida and MEP's senior leadership will then present accomplishments and highlights for each of the six EPA-MEP MOU annex working groups and highlights of the work plans for the next two years (2014-15). MEP and EPA annex working groups have agreed on these in advance of the JCEC meeting. Although the tight agenda does not provide dedicated time for you to comment on these, you and Minister Zhou may comment briefly as you deem necessary at the end of each of the six presentations. You will both then hear about adding proposed collaboration on the Minamata Convention to the current portfolio and present each Agency's position on the proposal.

At the end of this meeting you and Minister Zhou will offer closing remarks, responding to each other's opening remarks. You will then invite Minister Zhou to the next JCEC, which you are expected to host in the U.S. in two years. At closing, you will both sign four copies (two in English, two in Chinese) of a Joint Statement summarizing and documenting the discussion and decisions. There will be a photo at the end of the meeting. After adjourning the meeting, Minister Zhou will host an official banquet.

Key Issues:

Since 2010, OITA and the Program Offices have improved strategic planning and implementation of the EPA-MEP collaboration. In 2010, EPA and MEP adopted the One EPA-One China approach to the portfolio, promoting strategic planning and coordination amongst the six working groups (**air, water, chemicals, waste, enforcement, law**) to address cross-cutting issues and improve efficiency and results. The portfolio was also aligned with shared EPA and MEP environmental priorities. Today, MEP has started more internal dialogue and coordination among their program offices to reflect the EPA approach.

The recent extreme environmental episodes facing China have resulted in public pressure on the Chinese government to balance economic growth with a healthy environment. China is recognizing that it does not currently have the mechanisms in place to integrate local and regional environmental planning. The Government is figuring out how to focus its research, technical and regulatory capacity building, and compliance and enforcement regimes on the environment. It is also experimenting with how to inform and engage the public on these issues.

MEP is currently prioritizing land-based stationary and mobile sources. However, emissions from marine vessels also contribute significantly to air quality deterioration. While MEP is not ready to address marine emissions today, it has acknowledged that it may address them in China's next five-year plan, which is due in two years. EPA has proposed to initiate a dialogue with MEP to start developing capacity to address marine vessels emissions and to inform how it could be incorporated into the next five-year plan. MEP has agreed to have EPA raise marine vessel emissions in your opening address to the JCEC.

While China is seeking robust engagement with EPA, the Agency is facing tremendous resource challenges (personnel and travel) in supporting China's requests for cooperation. At this JCEC you will convey and reaffirm several key messages:

1. Your global priorities and commitment to collaborate
2. Raise marine vessel emissions as a topic for continued dialogue in addition to current portfolio
3. Discuss and agree on proposal to collaborate on Minamata Convention implementation under current portfolio.

MEP Participants:

- Minister Zhou Shengxian, Ministry of Environmental Protection
- Mr. Tang Dingding, Director General, Department of International Cooperation
Counterpart to AAA Nishida and manager of the EPA-MEP MOU and relationship
- Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Director General, Department of Pollution Prevention and Control
Counterpart to several Program Office AAs and manager of several annexes under the EPA-MEP MOU
- Mr. Zou Shoumin, Director General, Bureau of Environmental Supervision
Counterpart to several media Program Office AAs and manager of several annexes under the EPA-MEP MOU
- Ms. Song Xiaozhi, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation
Counterpart to OITA DAA
- Mr. Bie Tao, Deputy Director General, Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations
Counterpart to GC Avi Garbow
- Mr. Liu Ning, Acting Director, Division of American and Oceania Affairs, Department of International Cooperation
- Mr. Lu Shize, Deputy Director, Department of Pollution Prevention and Control
Counterpart to several Program Office DAAs
- Ms. Li Jingyun, Deputy Director, Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations
- Mr. Wang Hua, Program Officer, Bureau of Environmental Supervision

Other Working MEP Staff:

- Mr. Zhuo Zhuang (Interpreter), Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation
- Ms. Mu Zhaojing, Program Officer, Department of International Cooperation
- Ms. He Xiaoying, Program Officer, Department of International Cooperation
Counterpart to OITA Senior Advisor for Asia Pacific Mark Kasman
- Ms. Zou Yueyu, Program Officer, Department of International Cooperation

EPA/USG Attendees:

- EPA Delegation
- Erica Thomas, U.S. Embassy – Beijing
- Ming Lei, U.S. Embassy – Beijing
- Philip Gatins, U.S. Embassy, U.S. Embassy – Beijing
- Bridget Dolan, Department of State – China Desk

Agenda Summary:

3:00-3:30 PM Opening Session 2013 JCEC (chaired by Minister Zhou) *Open Press*

- Opening remarks, introduction of delegation, and address by Minister Zhou (15m)
- Opening remarks, introduction of delegation, and address by Administrator McCarthy (15m)

Press Departs

3:30-5:00 PM Annex Summaries and Plans (chaired by Minister Zhou)

Summary and work plans - 6 annexes (15m for each annex)

- Annex 1: Air
 - Presentation by Chinese side for summary (10m)
 - Response by U.S. side for prospect (5m)
- Annex 2: Water
 - Presentation by U.S. side for summary (10m)
 - Response by Chinese side for prospect (5m)
- Annex 3: Chemical
 - Presentation by Chinese side for summary (10m)
 - Response by U.S. side for prospect (5m)
- Annex 4: Solid Waste
 - Presentation by U.S. side for summary (10m)
 - Response by Chinese side for prospect (5m)
- Annex 5: Law enforcement
 - Presentation by Chinese side for summary (10m)
 - Response by U.S. side for prospect (5m)
- Annex 6: Environment Law and Institutions
 - Presentation by U.S. side for summary (10m)
 - Response by Chinese side for prospect (5m)

5:00-5:15 PM Other Topics

- Working Together on Minamata Convention in the Interim Period
 - Presentation by U.S. side (7m)
 - Response by Chinese side (3m)
- Time and location of JCEC 5
 - Administrator McCarthy makes suggestions (3m)
 - Minister Zhou responds (2m)

5:15-5:30 PM Closing Remarks

- Closing remarks by Administrator McCarthy (7m)
- Closing remarks by Minister Zhou (7m)
- Adjournment of the meeting by Minister Zhou

5:30-5:40 PM Signing of the Joint Statement and group photo (1m)

5:40-5:45 PM Family Photo

Administrator's Remarks [All redactions that follow are based on Exemption 5]

- Minister Zhou will open the meeting, make his opening remarks, introduce his delegation, deliver his address, and invite you to make your opening remarks, introduce your delegation, and deliver your address.

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- **Second intervention:** After you and Minister Zhou open the meeting, the EPA and MEP delegations will present to both of you the updates and workplans for each of the six annexes. Should you want to comment on any of the Annex presentations, the relevant EPA program offices have offered the following optional comments for your consideration. Timing to comment on each annex has not been programmed, but you are free to comment if you want to make a point. **Note on typical protocol expected by MEP:** In all instances when a member of either delegation is to present or comment, it will be the Minister leading that delegation who will ask his/her delegate to present. That delegate will turn it back to their Minister when done speaking. In no instance would Minister Zhou state who from EPA is to present; he will allays turn to the Administrator for that and he expects the same from EPA.

Optional Suggested Comments on Annex 1:

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Optional Suggested Comments on Annex 2:

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Optional Suggested comments on Annex 3:

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Optional Suggested comments on Annex 4:

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Optional Suggested comments on Annex 5:

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Optional Suggested Comments on Annex 6:

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- Third intervention: Comments on Minamata collaboration. EPA has proposed to MEP that the agencies collaborate in the interim period of the Minamata Convention and MEP has agreed to discuss it as an emerging issue. EPA Nishida will present EPA's proposal and MEP will respond. We expect both you and Minister Zhou will comment on the presentation and MEP response. These are suggested talkers:

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■ Fourth Intervention: Invite Minister Zhou [JOE] to JCEC 5

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■ Fifth: Closing remarks

Minister Zhou will invite you to make your closing remarks before he makes his closing remarks.

Below are suggested remarks to respond to his opening remarks shared by MEP in outline form.

Minister Zhou has received your draft opening remarks and is prepared to respond in his closing.

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